

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the City Council Work Session
Monday, May 11, 2026

PRESENT: Councilmembers Brethauer, DeKryger, Hill, Postler, Mayor Vanderwood and Mayor Pro Tem Postema

ABSENT: Councilmember Arnoys

STAFF: Hofert, Hyble, Klaassen, Shay, Stremers, VandenBerg, Vis, and Yenchar

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Postema called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Karen Francois, 4005 Burlingame Avenue, spoke on the short-term rental ordinance, expressing concern with short-term rentals.

Mayor Pro Tem Postema asked City Manager Shay to provide an update on car dealership parking lot striping to council once tonight's agenda items are addressed.

3. Metro Cruise Fee

City Manager Shay explained the City's history with Metro Cruise and a recent communication received from event manager, Brandon Simmons, with a proposal regarding fees paid to the City. Shay noted city services provided to support this event, the budget impact, and conversations in recent years to gradually increase the fee charged to event organizers. Shay is seeking direction from council on how fees related to this event should be addressed.

Postema invited Simmons to present. In his recent communication to the City, Simmons proposed organizers pay a flat fee of \$7,500 per year for the next seven years. Simmons described the community value of Metro Cruise to residents and businesses, noting this will be the 21st year for the event.

Council posed questions to Simmons. Chief Snyder provided data points related to police services, overtime costs, and mutual aid in recent years. Council discussed different funding scenarios and considerations toward those scenarios.

Council asked for additional budget information from event organizers to further consider an appropriate fee. Shay will work with Simmons and staff to bring this item back to council at a future meeting.

4. Proposed Revisions to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance

City Manager Shay explained past council discussions on this manner. Colton Hyble will present information about current and potential regulatory tools related to short-term rentals (STRs)

Hyble provided historic information and timeframes related to STRs, their operation in the City and the tools used to regulate them. While legislation has been proposed at the state level,

nothing has been enacted to date to regulate STRs. Given the lack of statewide legislation, Hyble noted council has the opportunity to enhance the existing regulatory ordinance and zoning code for STRs. In addition to balancing nuisance and safety concerns with property rights, the proposed ordinance includes a requirement that STRs be registered through the City's rental inspection program. The information collected through the registration process would assist staff in education and enforcement efforts, if needed.

Shay noted the proposed changes embrace the feedback provided by council during previous discussions.

Council discussed components of the proposed changes, enforcement, and the timeline.

Council was supportive of staff preparing materials for council's consideration at an upcoming meeting.

5. Proposed Revisions to the Purchasing Policy

City Manager Shay noted council has inquired about the number of smaller purchasing items that require council approval and whether there are opportunities to streamline processes to be more efficient. Staff reviewed the charter, ordinances, and purchasing policy to identify opportunities for improvement. Hofert and Yenchar will present the opportunities identified to address this issue.

Hofert and Yenchar presented information related to charter and ordinance requirements that guide City purchases, noting purchases requiring bids have increased 44% in the last 5 years. These existing requirements also cause challenges, including a lack of vendor interest in bidding, competition with neighboring communities with higher purchasing thresholds, extending staff time needed to carry out purchasing processes, concerns with cyber security related to technology purchases, and supply chain issues where delays often drive-up costs.

Hofert and Yenchar reviewed proposed amendments and provided examples where those changes streamline bidding and reduce the number of items requiring council action. Hofert and Yenchar also highlighted where and how council still has a role in approving certain purchases, including the Capital Improvement Plan, annual budget approval and establishing purchasing procedures.

Mayor Vanderwood noted the desire to have Councilmember Arnoys briefed on this matter before it comes back for council consideration.

Finally, staff is proposing adding a local business opportunity program to the City's purchasing policy, noting language and guidelines that might be added to the policy to incentive bids from local businesses. The City of Grand Rapids previously presented information to council on this and several members of council indicated interest in the concept. Yenchar reviewed parameters of the proposed program.

Hofert provided a summary of recommendations.

Council was supportive of staff preparing materials for council's consideration of these recommendations. Staff outlined a proposed timeline, noting Councilmember Arnoys will be briefed before this item comes back for council consideration.

6. Any Other Matters

City Manager Shay noted the public comments provided at the last city council meeting related to parking lot striping of auto dealer lots. Several councilmembers have requested additional information related to this matter. Hyble will present information on the issue and staff efforts to address it.

Hyble displayed photos of problematic lots he found along Division Avenue last week, noting challenges with ingress and egress, fire and safety concerns, and parking in the right-of-way. Hyble provided a timeline of staff's outreach efforts on this matter, noting initial communication occurred in February 2025. Several businesses reached compliance during the past year, and staff continue to assist those businesses who have reached out for assistance. Hofert noted there is no opportunity for variances or waivers of the fire code and enforcement will be the next step for those who have not initiated some effort to comply with requirements.

Council discussed possible resolutions and concerns with both lack of compliance and enforcement. Shay suggested further staff outreach efforts to continue to encourage and seek compliance from the remaining businesses. Hofert underscored staff will continue to seek compliance from these businesses.

6. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment (3-minute limit per person)

Mark Johnson, Metro Cruise representative, provided comments in support of the event and encouraged council to support the event financially through reduced fees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk